

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 CPR-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 060029

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ASEC, UR, US

SUBJECT: ARREST OF AMTORG EMPLOYEE MAKSIMOV

REF: USUN 839

1. SOVIET EMBASSY COUNSELOR MYSHKOV DELIVERED ORAL STATE-
MENT TO SOV DIRECTOR MARCH 17 WHICH CHARGED THAT MAKSIMOV
ARREST WAS PROVOCATION BY US AUTHORITIES, THAT MAKSIMOV
WAS CRUDELY PULLED FROM TAXI AND ARRESTED BY NEW YORK
POLICE WITHOUT SLIGHTEST REASON AS HE WAS INNOCENTLY RE-
TURNING HOME FROM BUSINESS APPOINTMENT. INFORMAL TRANS-

LATION OF "NON-PAPER" FOLLOWS SEPTTEL.

2. MYSHKOV ADDED THAT MOSCOW VIEWED INCIDENT AS MOST
SERIOUS AND WOULD SHORTLY PRESENT EMBASSY MOSCOW WITH
PROTEST NOTE. HE ASKED THAT DEPARTMENT INFLUENCE COURT
TO DROP ALL CHARGES AND SAID EMBASSY MIGHT NOT ALLOW

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MAKSIMOV TO APPEAR IN COURT AS SCHEDULED MARCH 20. HE

ALSO SAID SOVIET SIDE WOULD NOT PUBLICIZE INCIDENT,
DESPITE REQUEST TO DO SO BY "OUR PRESS PEOPLE".

3. SOV DIRECTOR EXPRESSED ASTONISHMENT THAT THIS MATTER

WAS SUBJECT OF SOVIET PROTEST AND THAT SOVIET EMBASSY
VERSION OF INCIDENT VARIED SO DRASTICALLY FROM REPORTS
WE HAD RECEIVED FROM NYPD. HE SAID THAT SO FAR AS WE
ARE CONCERNED, THE REPORTS OF RESPONSIBLE POLICE OFFI-

CIALSCARRYING OUT THEIR DUTIES MUST BE GIVEN FULL WEIGHT.
HE NOTED THAT USUN HAD BEEN IN TOUCH WITH SMUN AS WELL
AS THE POLICE AND THE COURT AND THAT WE HAD PROMPTLY
FACILITATED CONSULAR TRAVEL TO NEW YORK BY SOVIET EMBASSY
VICE CONSUL USPENSKIY. HE UNDERTOOK TO INFORM APPRO-
PRIATE AUTHORITIES OF THE SOVIET EMBASSY'S VERSION OF IN-
CIDENT, ALTHOUGH POSING THE MATTER AS A PROTEST WAS NOT
LIKELY TO BE HELPFUL TO WORKING OUT A RESOLUTION OF THE
PROBLEMS CREATED BY MAKSIMOV'S ACTIONS. HE PROMISED
TO BE BACK IN TOUCH WITH MYSHKOV AS EVENTS WARRANTED.

4. LATER IN AFTERNOON OF MARCH 17 SOVIET CHARGE VORONT-
SOV CALLED DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY ARMITAGE TO ASK
DEPARTMENT'S ASSISTANCE IN DEFERRING FOR ONE WEEK MARCH

20 COURTAPEARANCE FOR ARRAIGNMENT HEARING SO THAT
SOVIET SIDECOULD BETTER PREPARE ITS CASE. ARMITAGE
UNDERTOOKTO LOOK INTO MATTER.

5. IF WRITTEN PROTEST CONTAINS INTEMPERATE LANGUAGE
ALONG LINES THAT CONTAINED IN "NON-PAPER", EMBASSY
SHOULD FIRMLY REJECT ACCUSATIONS OF OFFICIALLY INSPIRED
PROVOCATIONS. ROBINSON

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